

# NBC NIGHTLY NEWS GEORGE W. BUSH REPORTS JANUARY 2ND - JANUARY 19TH, 2001

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From January 2nd, 2001 through January 19th, 2001 NBC Nightly News reports on transition 2001

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NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw substituting tonight Brian Williams good evening it was Bill Clinton who promised a cabinet that looked more like America now it's the bush cabinet that's also coming through on that very promise after pledging to name at least one Democrat today the president-elect delivered and with his final three selections is finished with the cabinet that one Bush intimate predicted would be quote the most substantial in history but will it all be smooth sailing from here on out for Team Bush we begin tonight with NBC News correspondent David Gregory with us tonight from Austin Texas David good evening to you good evening to you Bryan a Democrat and his cabinet is the mark of diversity that George Bush knows he needed most in top Bush advisers say tonight that Bush received help in that outreach effort from President Clinton and notably Al Gore both of whom are said to have encouraged the current Commerce Secretary and former California congressman Norman Panetta to serve in the new administration declaring his cabinet one of the strongest that quote any president has ever been able to assemble Bush left it to his Democratic nominee to explain why he crossed the aisle Minetta of former congressman from California and Clinton's current Secretary of Commerce says while he's a loyal Democrat the campaign is over the challenge before all of us as Americans regardless of party affiliation is to find those areas where we can build bipartisan consensus on the policies and the programs that are needed to move this nation forward but as Transportation Secretary Panetta will have no effect on the major policy positions Bush took during the campaign and Riddick's note the most critical cabinet posts like Attorney General and Health and Human Services have been filled by strong conservatives I don't think this will have a great impact one way or the other Bush's policies will matter far more than a token appointment in the cabinet

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than a token appointment in the cabinet Bush has been praised for the diversity of his cabinet in a nominating Linda's Chavez to head the Labor Department and the son of Lebanese immigrants Michigan senator Spencer Abraham to Secretary of Energy for Abraham a challenging assignment against the backdrop of an energy crunch in California and a nationwide natural gas shortage with winter bearing down Bush's cabinet secretaries to African Americans to Hispanics one Asian one Arab American and three women a cabinet as diverse as Clinton's and Bush says reflective of his management style I'm not afraid to surround myself with strong and competent people and hope the American people realize that a good executive is one that understands how to recruit people and how to delegate Bush says they don't necessarily expect smooth sailing for all their nominees on Capitol Hill especially John Ashcroft who of course has been tapped to be Attorney General source to say Ashcroft had been working aggressively behind the scenes to shore up support on the hill and tonight Bush insists if senators review his record quote objectively and they look at his heart and his record that they'll confirm as George W. Bush puts the finishing touches on his cabinet in Washington the good people of the tiny town of Crawford Texas a wide spot in the road are getting ready for some changes on their quiet home front a dusty two-hour drive from the Capitol in Austin as NBC's Bob Fout tells us it's one thing to have the governor's retreat in your town but being the

home to the first families bunk house is quite another matter all-together tiny Crawford Texas population 651 isn't just excited the president-elect is a neighbor who's never heard of two Bush bald out here with just one traffic light one ho-hum diner one full-time policeman in one yes waterfowl Crawford

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policeman in one yes waterfowl Crawford also hopes this is the start of something big and who knows what might happen down here big things might materialize lola Solero thinks the ranch might help her antiques business bring in people yes and the people will spend money I'm hoping business at that diner is already up 20 percent outside Danny Garvin has already sold out of commemorative hats than anything with Crawford on it really moving right now Diane Moore isn't just Hawking homemade calendars she's also prepared to rent her house lease your house rent for a day a week an hour one whatever's needed mr. Bush might have been lured here by nearly 1,600 acres but townspeople can't eat the landscape you'll like the idea of tourists coming in here spending the money yeah we love the money residents here agree with a Bush ranch Crawford is about to change question is will it be the kind of change Crawford wants Plains Georgia for example a sleepy backwater in 1976 when Jimmy Carter was elected now look at it we hate grocery stores we had so forth you know what we've got now souvenir jobs from the people of plains to the people of Crawford a warning it's going to bring a whole new look to your town it's going to give you a whole new set of priorities with that new neighbor Crawford is hoping for more state money to fill potholes and build new sewers nothing dramatic says the mayor it's not the same dynamic that you had with Johnson City when Johnson was president or Plains with Jimmy Carter's president because they grew up in those communities truth be told almost no one here wants the pace to change I'd like to see it change a little bit but not a hotel because it's a good community that's why we like in here here where they might find out what loving a president can cost Bob for NBC News Crawford Texas

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cost Bob for NBC News Crawford Texas Odom Clinton made a little history today the first ever first lady to be elected to public office say nothing of the world's most exclusive club the US Senate after spending most of her life in support of her husband's political career watching him get sworn in over and over again it was his turn today to watch from the sidelines as she was the one taking the oath of office our in-depth report tonight from NBC's Andrea Mitchell she is first among equals America's first first lady politician today Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton so help you God near the bottom in seniority but later in another event she jumps to the head of a line even ahead of Republican leader Trent Lott security concerns for her husband officials for this political wife friends say a dream come true today he holds the Bible for her trading places from when they first came to Washington eight years ago as we from the health care Fiasco to the Monica humiliation I did not have sexual relations for that woman to the campaign many said she would never win Hillary Clinton is now the most admired woman in America beating Oprah by a landslide in the latest Gallup poll we're happy I was really a very moving moment for both of us I kept looking at him up in the gallery with my daughter and I you know it was very emotional for for me but how was she fit in among 99 other ambitious politicians the Senate has a hundred people who think they could be President so she's only one of them she is different for instance the senior senator from New York is hardly camera shy I'll make you this promise I'll do my best not to steal Hillary's live life and while chuck schumer bunks on work nights with three fellow lawmakers in this row house and other freshman senators read small apartments i got two

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senators read small apartments i got two bedrooms and a sofa bed so my children can come when they feel like it uh Hillary and her husband buy a new 2.8 million dollar mansion she needs an address and I'd like to have someplace to come see her friends even register her China for the new house a soup tureen goes for more than two thousand dollars but now that she's sworn in Senate ethics rules for big gifts worth more than \$100 she'll have to rely on her husband's earnings and her eight million dollar book deal but she's still being entertained by friends tonight at a party hosted by Democratic fundraiser Walter Kay the supporter who first

sent a young intern named Monica to the Clinton White House Andrea Mitchell NBC News Washington so are those critics correct when they say this is just a land grab to promote the Clinton legacy NBC's Andrea Mitchell takes a closer look tonight at what seems to be the president's rush to make history in his final days when it comes to his legacy Bill Clinton is playing beat the clock and not just to protect forests he's also expected to designate as national monuments five more scenic areas in California Arizona New Mexico and two in Montana 13 previous presidents have used the same 1906 law to protect pristine lands but none more than Clinton and there's more in recent days regulations are being changed right and left new medical privacy rules for patients restrictions on diesel fuel emissions from trucks and buses ergonomic rules against repetitive stress injuries labeling standards for organically grown foods all to the horror of business lobbyists what the White House is doing through the backdoor is what they couldn't do through the Congress to the front perhaps Clinton's most urgent search for a legacy Mideast peace he tells Yasser Arafat time is up today Arafat consults Arab leaders Israeli negotiators come to Washington we

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negotiators come to Washington we obviously are going to be working until the last moment to see what we can achieve if Arafat makes a real commitment to compromise aides say the president will even host another summit in Washington next week mister Clinton is unlikely to be able to make peace and as a result the Bush administration is going to have the unfortunate reality of having to deal with the consequences of failed peacemaking but why is Bill Clinton the Energizer Bunny of lame-duck presidents is it to shake off the shadow of impeachment these are late term decisions that oftentimes happen he may be making more than normal but he's just a very active guy and who tends to try to get a lot of stuff done a relatively small amount of time however will these last-minute changes stand whatever they do in these last two weeks is subject to being undone barely notice in the flurry of action Clinton's farewell gift to his own team lifting the five-year lobbying ban for departing officials but he signed with great fanfare on his first day in office Andrea Mitchell NBC News Washington good evening everyone it is now official the election of George W Bush as president of the United States was certified by members of Congress normally a routine matter but this time because of the controversy surrounding the disputed ballots in Florida some members of the House boost angry objections we begin our coverage with NBC's Joe John's on Capitol Hill good evening Joe good evening John this event happens every four years on Capitol Hill and while the outcome was preordained the moment was remarkable especially for its quality of raw political theater even before members of the US Senate lined up for the march to the house and the traditional joint session to count electoral votes a call for civility from one of the nation's best-known conservative Republicans today we can approach this as Americans not as

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approach this as Americans not as Republicans not as Democrats not as conservatives not as liberals but as Americans but as the time came for Florida's votes to be counted the tone turned bitter a series of objections from the floor and it was up to Vice President Al Gore in his role as president of the Senate to gavel down a would-be rebellion of his most ardent supporters on the subject because of the overwhelming evidence of official misconduct in signed by myself when we here for the many disenfranchised people in the state of Florida today's passions the result of 35 days of doubt in Florida after the November vote almost all of the objections came from members of the Congressional Black Caucus in protest of alleged voting irregularities involving minorities but they were destined to lose because federal law requires at least one senator to sign on to any objection from the house and it's a sad day in America mr. president we can't find us fine the gentleman sections gentleman will suspend the objection is in writing and I don't care that it is not it is not signed by a member of the Senate the the chair will advise that the rules do care and in the end members of the Black Caucus walked out venting their anger at both parties in a news conference we will never get over this we will take this I personally will take it to my grave but the count went on state-by-state with the expected outcome george w bush of the state of texas has received for President of the United States two hundred and seventy one votes al gore of the state of Tennessee has received two hundred and sixty six

votes may God bless our new president and our new vice president and may God bless the United States of America however for the American electoral college one constitutional scholar today had few kind words we're living in the 21st

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kind words we're living in the 21st century but we are living with 18th century political institutions the electoral college is an antique that distorts our democracy and many suggest the controversy over the election will extend long past today the city of Washington now bracing for protests to coincide with the inauguration of George W Bush John NBC's Joe Johns in Washington Joe thank you now to Texas where the president-elect met today with Republican governors to talk about his agenda NBC's Campbell Brown joins us in Gus tonight from Austin good evening Campbell good evening John will his victory now official president-elect Bush today described himself as honored but also focused on what he wants to do when he gets to Washington spending the weekend at what is expected to be the Western house his Crawford Texas ranch Bush shared his reaction to Congress officially certifying his election I am honored this is a humbling experience to become the president this great land and I want to reiterate what I said before I'm gonna be the president of everybody whether they supported me or not joining him today nineteen Republican governors all early supporters during the campaign Bush invited them here to listen to their ideas on the best way to improve public education they also discussed the state of the economy with Bush insisting he will convince Congress to support his 1.3 trillion dollar tax cut in order to enhance our economic recovery we need tax relief and I think both Republicans and Democrats are understanding that advisors described the meeting as an early sign of how Bush will govern turning to state leaders for input relying less on the Washington establishment I remember where I came from and well I realize there's a role for the federal government it's not to impose its will on states and local communities it's to empower States and people and local communities to be able to realize the vast potential

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to be able to realize the vast potential of this great country now Bush also talked about his inaugural address which he will deliver two weeks from today Bush says he will have a clear statement to the world that quotes the greatest thing America has to export is freedom and that the US will remain engaged in the world in a positive and humble way John NBC's Campbell Brown Campbell thank you while the president-elect prepares to take the reins of power those controversial Florida ballots are now back in the spotlight NBC's Kerry Sanders reports from Miami we'll be starting with the under boat envelopes that contain those ballots and starting with precinct 1a for the past three weeks reporters from a half dozen news organizations as well as some political groups quietly doing what election canvassing November in December now as then the job of examining the 60,000 undervotes those votes that did not register a vote for any candidate a huge tedious undertaking some Republicans fear if this vote recount in all of Florida's 67 counties is followed by news stories that Al Gore had more votes it will undermine president-elect George Bush's Authority and that has some Republicans nervous paper will write you have this many votes under this standard this many votes into the standard this many votes it's kind of like the old fees all sitting around the table you know two for me one for you three for me one for you newspapers like the Miami Herald say they are not trying to show Gore was cheated out of a victory in fact they say they're not actually counting votes going so far as to hire accountants to examine the ballots and then categorize them dimpled pregnant hanging chads we want their independence we want their antibody their impartiality and we're not deciding here at the Miami Herald what those ballots show when will it all be done president-elect Bush will have been President Bush for at least two weeks before we know what the unofficial those recount shows Kerry Sanders NBC

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those recount shows Kerry Sanders NBC News Miami was attempting to form his cabinet it was the nanny factor two of his choices had hired illegal immigrants as nannies and that costume cabinet post well now the same kind of issue has developed for George W Bush and his choice of labor secretary Linda Chavez the

president-elect is standing by her but her case now is being reviewed by the bush team we'll begin tonight with NBC's Lisa Myers today the bush team scrambles to defend Linda Chavez against allegations she may have violated the law by having an illegal immigrant from Guatemala live in her home for as long as two years that woman Marta Mercado now married and in this country legally today says she moved in with Chavez in late 1991 when she had nowhere else to go and told Chavez three months later that she was here illegally she knew about my little situation in this country that I was not legal today a bush spokesman disputes that says Chavez did not know Mercado status until after she moved out what Chavez knew when matters if she knew the immigrant was illegal she probably violated the the anti harboring law another even more important question was the woman an employee and should Chavez have paid taxes on her Chavez says no and today Mercado says she didn't consider herself an employee even though Shabbos occasionally gave her spending money hundreds perhaps thousands of dollars all together and even though she did household chores I started helping around the house doing some things in the house as you know in every house needs to be done you long to clean to do something washing dishes sometimes doing laundries at the time employers were required to pay Social Security taxes on

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required to pay Social Security taxes on any household worker paid more than \$50 a quarter or \$200 a year in fact while Mercado was living with Chavez Bill Clinton's first nominee for attorney general zoe baird was done in by revelation she employed an illegal immigrant as a nanny and failed to pay Social Security taxes Chavez said this then I think most of the American people were upset during the zoe baird nomination that she had hired an illegal alien that was what upset them more than the fact that she did not pay Social Security taxes the bush team says this situation is different because Chavez was simply helping someone in need taking somebody who was in a moment of need into your home is an act of compassion only to cabinet nominees in the last twenty years have been rejected at the outset of a new presidency but Democrats now believe they have a shot at Chavez and she is clearly in their sights Lisa Myers NBC News the capital as for the bush team back in Texas this was unexpected but from the Governor on down they were staying committed to Shabazz for now NBC David Gregory is in Austin for us tonight David Tom that's correct the bush team is caught by surprise by these revelations top transition sources saying that this was specifically asked the so called nanny question but failed to disclose her arrangement with Mercado making some Bush supporters tonight increasingly concerned that she was not as forthcoming as she should have been even as top aides were quickly to shore up support for Chavez on Capitol Hill the president-elect digs in defending his designated labor secretary will stop be short of condoning her behavior if they should be a fine Secretary of Labor and I know there's gonna be some withering questions for some of the people that we've nominated for the positions but I'm convinced all of them be able to withstand the withering questions privately senior Bush aides insist they are not surprised this story was leaked saying prominent Democrats have made clear their intention to quote get Chavez just as they have set their sights on another embattled Bush nominee

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sights on another embattled Bush nominee Attorney General designee John Ashcroft that sound that Linda Chavez is currently hearing is the saw biting into the limb behind her and she's got to worry that nobody's out there really with a deep interest in saving her in fact Bush who briefly helps movers in the governor's mansion today is said to be squarely behind his nominee she has a long-standing relationship with Dick Cheney and Bush's chief of staff Andrew car without their support she would have never been nominated Bush's nomination headache was a laughing matter to President Clinton's a day no doubt recalled his own struggles with Zoe bear and I cannot say any of the things that I want to say which would leave you howling in the aisles but Democrats on the hill are not laughing miss Chavez has been very critical of Clinton appointees who were involved with illegal aliens and undocumented persons and I think it's a standard that she is now going to have to live by herself but tonight even as senior advisors await a more detailed explanation from Chavez herself they remain confident that Senate Democrats will withhold their fire at least for now says one top aide quote the Senators do want to be fair about it Tom thanks very much NBC's David Gregory good evening Linda Chavez today withdrew as the nominee for Secretary of Labor after two hard

days of stories about an illegal immigrant who lived with her performing some work for cash back in 1991 through 1993 when Chavez was initially interviewed by the bush team she didn't tell them about the immigrant Marta micarta a Guatemalan there are also questions about the version that Chavez gave to the FBI as NBC's David Gregory reports tonight Chavez tried to blame this entire episode on the political climate in Washington David Tom convinced that Chavez had lied both to members of the new administration and the FBI about her housing and employment of Mercado Bush sources say that Chavez was told today she had no other option but to bow out

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she had no other option but to bow out she agreed to do so but only after a fight in withdrawing her name she made it clear that she does not dispute the primary allegations against her she just believes she's become a distraction in an extraordinary display of defiance Chavez before actually withdrawing her name presents the testimony of several other immigrants who she says she's helped over the years was his choice for Labor Secretary blaming news media coverage and political opponents for her failed nomination so long as the game in Washington is a game of Search and Destroy I think we will have very few people who are willing to do what I did which was to put myself through this in order to serve the president-elect traveling to Washington during the Chavez announcement issued a brief statement saying quote Linda is a good person with a great deal of compassion for people from all walks of life I am disappointed that Linda Chavez will not become our nation's next Secretary of Labor Chavez who says she took Mercado in ten years ago because she had been abused in a relationship and had nowhere else to go admitted today after first denying it that she always knew Mercado was in this country illegally but still decided to unlawfully house her I don't check green cards when I see a woman who is and who has no place to live and nothing to eat and no way to get on her feet Chavez paid Mercado perhaps thousands of dollars over the two years she lived with her but denies she was an employee which is why she says she never paid Social Security taxes on her sources familiar with Chavez his actions also say she never disclosed her relationship with Mercado to the bush team because she believed Mercado is no longer in the country and therefore couldn't be reached by investigators Chavez spoke to an emotional Mercado before the announcement today and consoled her telling her she did nothing wrong it's not because in a certain way I feel

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it's not because in a certain way I feel like I was the reason you know tonight Bush who filled his cabinet in record time is now back to square one on the labor slot forced to scramble for a replacement even as he prepares for another battle over his nomination for Attorney General John Ashcroft Tom thanks very much NBC's David Gregory tonight at the same time today a number of groups took aim at president-elect Bush his choice for Attorney General John Ashcroft the former Missouri senator who's an outspoken conservative and Christian activists more of that coming battle tonight from NBC's Lisa Myers today a declaration of war on attorney general nominee John Ashcroft by an unprecedented coalition of some 45 interest groups representing women gays minorities labor all condemning Ashcroft as too extreme we do not contend that John Ashcroft is a racist what we contend is in a record of extraordinary indifference and hostility he's made a variety of comments regarding gay people often based on misinformation and revealing a deep bias the son of a fundamentalist Minister Ashcroft doesn't drink or dance even at his own inauguration as governor of Missouri as a senator Ashcroft said there are voices in the Republican Party today who preach pragmatism who championed conciliation who counseled compromise I stand here today to reject those deceptions he opposed most civil rights laws and his proposal to outlaw abortion so sweeping it could even ban some contraceptives Ashcroft once used a sonogram of his own grandson to make his case the Supreme Court had seen this picture had understood this 25 years ago would they have allowed my grand child's life to have been destroyed liberals who sense blood in the water after Chavez

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sense blood in the water after Chavez are putting heavy pressure on Senate Democrats to derail Ashcroft it's primarily a question of whether or not senator Ashcroft is able to enforce laws that he publicly disagrees with the bush team says Ashcroft enforced all laws as Missouri's Attorney General and would do it again supporters claim he's been vilified that his governor he appointed the first black judge to an appeals court and the first woman to the state Supreme Court the United States Senate has never defeated a cabinet member on the basis of ideology alone the Senate also has a long tradition of taking care of its own ash crops allies insists they have the votes to confirm him and that after Chavez Republicans will be even more dug in Lisa Myers NBC News the Capitol good evening there was a time in American politics when a president's cabinet choices were approved in pro forma fashion no more now the two parties go immediately to the barricades and they're joined there by myriad special interest groups for hand-to-hand combat before a new president is even sworn in last night it was Linda Chavez and her relationship with an undocumented worker she's gone has George Bush's choice for labor secretary now the battle has shifted to John Ashcroft the president-elect's choice for attorney general NBC's David Gregory is at the white house my David well Tom even as the president-elect tries to shake off the fallout from the withdrawal of Linda Chavez it is the fight over John Ashcroft that is intensifying tonight with a growing number of Senate Democrats lining up to oppose for Bush in Washington today rising above the Chavez distraction proves impossible his ex nominee dominates the airwaves far more apologetic than she appeared yesterday I was not forthcoming to President Bush and the transition officials I should have been the mistakes were mine but with Chavez out of the picture the heat now shifts to Bush's pick for attorney General John

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Bush's pick for attorney General John Ashcroft who transitioned sources say is very surprised by the intense opposition to him Capitol Hill sources now say as many as 35 Democrats have real reservations about Ashcroft and at least five GOP senators have been targeted as possible defectors Chafee of Rhode Island Jeffords of Vermont DeWine of Ohio Snowe of Maine and Specter of Pennsylvania and a pressure has just begun John Ashcroft represents greatest threat to our rights going a spokesman today insist Bush will fight hard for his nominee that John Ashcroft process is marked by this escalating biological division in this town and I don't think that's healthy for the process a leading witness at Ash cross confirmation hearing next week will be Ronnie white the Missouri Supreme Court justice whose nomination to the federal bench Ashcroft blocked prompting charges of racism in response Capitol Hill sources say Ashcroft Republican supporters plan to call the relatives of crime victims to make the case that white was too soft on criminals whose cases he reviewed creating the prospect of a contentious hearing within the hearing tonight Republican leader lot who complains of an effort to try to Bork the Ashcroft nomination a reference of course to the blocked Supreme Court nomination of Robert Bork insists there is unanimous Republican support for Ashcroft and puts long odds against his nomination being derail Tom thanks very much NBC's David Gregory tonight one of president-elect Bush's a choices appears to be a shoo-in for his confirmation that's rod page the choice for Secretary of Education he's a fellow Texan and as NBC's Lisa Myers reports tonight not even the controversial issue of school vouchers got in his way today it was nothing short of a love fest for Houston School Superintendent rod Paige even Democrats praising his record I can't get over the

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praising his record I can't get over the way those test scores rose in the poorest of neighborhoods the straight-talking former football coach scores even more points with Democrats when pressed by Senator Ted Kennedy he downplays his support for school vouchers to help low-income students and failing schools go to private schools not a priority senator allow me to comment on this because there's been much discussion about take your first answer Paige says students in failing schools deserve a choice I have a passionate promoter of public education what I like to find out is what works show me the results and I'd have some interested in trying it paid 67 was educated in segregated Mississippi became a head football coach and Rudi's doctoral thesis on the reaction time of offensive lineman he was promoted to Dean of education at Texas Southern University before taking charge of Houston schools in 1994 when he's down the back there's no nonsense shares vice president Cheney's level of charisma Paige believes in testing students to measure

performance and holding teachers and principals accountable during his tenure the percentage of 10th graders who passed the state's academic skills test rose from 40 point two percent to seventy three point five percent critics claim test scores are high because teachers teach to the test and because bad students drop out at high rates a lot of this increase is because of the increasing exclusion of low achieving students from school whatever his record experts say turning around the nation's failing schools will be even tougher but today Republicans and Democrats agreed that this tough-minded son of a principal has a better shot than most Lisa Myers NBC News Washington as for the president-elect he was sizing up his new duties today and one of the most critical posts in the nation's capital that's of course the Pentagon if George W Bush has his way big changes are coming in the American military system here's NBC's Jim miklaszewski

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system here's NBC's Jim miklaszewski flanked by his entire national security team the commander-in-chief elect arrives at the Pentagon today his first close-up look at the military he's about to inherit and pledges to change deep inside the tank a secure soundproof room where war plans are made president-elect Bush gets a top secret brief on world hotspots and potential threats but his first big military battle may come on Capitol Hill for Bush the controversial national missile defense is a top priority in fact he wants to build a much larger defense than the 60 billion dollar system now planned critics predict that tough fight in Congress that's gonna cost a lot of money is gonna generate a lot of controversy but the biggest challenge to Bush will be to rebuild a military and decline at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia mechanics struggled to keep planes in the air can't buy the airplanes because we're waiting on parts the Air Force alone says it needs an additional 30 billion dollars a year to replace or repair its aging fleet of planes Bush however plans to spend only five billion dollars a year more on the entire military they've got a essentially a 10 pound defense program trying to be squeezed into a five pound budget bag to make that fit Bush wants to change the way the Pentagon thinks and the military fights making the entire force lighter but more lethal that means costly weapon systems like a whole new generation of fighter planes at three hundred sixty billion dollars could get shot down nevertheless after eight years of rocky relations with the Clinton White House the military appears eager to salute their new commander-in-chief and the seriousness of the job hit home today for the first time Bush was briefed on the secret codes to launch nuclear weapons Jim McClure chefs key NBC News the Pentagon in Washington Republicans are more confident tonight to fill whether the political storm are on the nomination of John Ashcroft as Attorney General

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General it still promises to be the most acrimonious of the Senate confirmation battles but now the Republicans are rallying their forces NBC's David Gregory is in Washington again tonight David well Tom tonight one of Ashcroft's top supporters on Capitol Hill boldly predicts that despite mounting opposition to his nomination Ashcroft will be confirmed with as many as 60 out of 100 votes in the Senate hardly smooth-sailing admits the president-elect tonight but adds he never expected it to be mounting an aggressive defense of his embattled nominee today bush attempts to blunt the most incendiary charges leveled against Ashcroft that racist views have influenced his decisions I do think there's gonna be some interesting discussions about the law and his willingness to enforce civil rights laws for example and he will today Ashcroft's conservative supporters worried that opposition from liberal activists is taking a toll fan out across Capitol Hill to defend his record we're about to go back to the rule of law where right is right was wrong is wrong and we're not gonna raise a moistened finger in the air check the polls and find out how we're playing in Peoria and tonight those five Republican senators we've been following we've been targeted as possible defectors now making it clear they are behind Ashcroft Chafee of Rhode Island Jeffords of Vermont DeWine of Ohio's know of Maine and Spector of Pennsylvania and I have debated against him and we've had disagreements on the Senate floor but I have every confidence that he'll be able to respond he's a man of integrity he's a man of honesty and I think after he has served a while as the Attorney General people are going to really understand what kind of a quality individual he is he'll sources say Ashcroft can also probably

count on the support of three Democrats to on the Judiciary Committee Kohl and Feingold of Wisconsin and torricelli of New Jersey yes but tonight the opposition is not back down the Judiciary Committee's ranking Democrat Patrick Leahy writing Dick Cheney requesting a videotape of

[00:38:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=2281s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=2281s)

Dick Cheney requesting a videotape of Ashcroft's 1999 speech at Bob Jones University the now infamous college where Bush himself spoke during the primaries that bans gays interracial dating and has expressed anti-catholic views both good evening remember the difficulty that Bill Clinton had and finding an acceptable Attorney General George W Bush hopes to avoid that as he starts his four-year term but tonight it is clear the nomination of former Missouri senator John Ashcroft will be the first big fight of the new administration even if Ashcroft critics failed to keep him from office they hope to send the new president a message and be seized Lisa Myers tonight on the attack and counter-attack Lisa what's the latest there at the Capitol well Tom today after days of playing defense the right is counter attacking and the bush team finally is providing the Senate with that long awaited transcript of as Kraus remarks to Bob Jones University the now-infamous College the band interracial dating and expressed anti-catholic views now as cross enemies may be disappointed Ashcroft spoke in May 1999 the transcript obtained by NBC News indicates the speech was a short but strong statement of his faith as crops repeated refrain we have no king but Jesus a slogan he said of the American Revolution a Bob Jones University he said I thank God for this institution and for you as prof dissent said he didn't know of the school's controversial policies at the time and probably wouldn't have gone had he known and tonight ash cross allies also note that his Bob Jones speech was no more religious than joe lieberman's acceptance speech the day he was chosen al gore's running mate let the spirit move me as it does to remember the words from chronicles which are to give thanks to God earlier in the day Ashcroft goes to the Capitol lobbies former Senate colleagues after an hour New York Democrat Chuck Schumer still has reservations says he'll vote for most of

[00:40:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=2400s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=2400s)

reservations says he'll vote for most of Bush's cabinet but but this particular choice is more troubling than the others because senator Ashcroft is much further over to the far right on his views now a Republican radio ad targeting him our new president-elect hasn't even taken the oath of office and some people are already making trouble all part of a counter attacked by the right plotted at a summit meeting this afternoon of conservative activists and then a rally in a press conference activists say that confirming Ashcroft now is the number one priority of the entire conservative movement especially Christian conservatives out of the bush cabinet he's the one that's a really a strong self-identified evangelical and conservative but I think if he were to fail then it would be very difficult to get anybody else in government well tonight Ashcroft vote counters say that about two-thirds of the Senate including a fair number of Democrats are leaning his way still conservatives are mobilizing the grassroots this weekend to be sure no Republicans get wobbly thanks very much NBC's Lisa Myers tonight one of the star witnesses against Ashcroft will be a judge from his home state Ronnie white an african-american member of the Missouri Supreme Court Ashcroft kept white from moving up to the federal bench and be seized Pete Williams tonight on the showdown between these two men from Missouri so dramatic star witness expected that Ashcroft's confirmation hearings next week Ronnie white the first African American justice on the Missouri Supreme Court a key witness because Democrats claim that Ashcroft unfairly labeled him soft on criminals during the Senate battle over his nomination to be a federal judge who is Ronnie white age 47 native of st. Louis married with one son three terms in the Missouri State House where he

[00:42:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=2521s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=2521s)

in the Missouri State House where he blocked a bill that would have restricted access to abortion a bill supported by the man who was then Missouri's governor John Ashcroft today the president of the st. Louis Urban League a Republican and a supporter of Ronnie White's says he thinks the fight over that abortion bill is the real reason Ashcroft opposed White's nomination I think it was personal and I don't think it was racial

and I think it had to do with their time in the legislature and I think it was definitely payback time but during the passionate debate senator Ashcroft insisted he opposed only White's judicial record judge white has been more liberal on the death penalty during his tenure than any other judge on the Missouri Supreme Court Justice Department figures show white voted to overturn 30 percent of death sentences compared to 19 to 25 percent for five other justices Ashcroft himself appointed when he was governor even so white supporters say Ashcroft ignored the reasons for those votes for example in one case voting to give a black man convicted of murder a new trial because white said the judge made a racist comment just six days before the trial by suggesting there's a difference between minorities and quote hard-working taxpayers next week's confirmation hearing promises to be an unusual showdown a war of words between a nominee defeated for a federal judgeship and his chief Senate opponent Pete Williams NBC News Washington former senator Ashcroft is the attorney general nominee is not the only Bush cabinet appointment facing a stiff fight in the nomination process Gale Norton his choice for interior secretary is another target tonight and NBC's David Gregory has more on that story for us now David and Tom despite more vocal opposition in Orton's nomination sources close to her remain extremely confident that her prospects are excellent and tonight even some of her opponents agree on those issues emboldened by the aggressive campaign being waged against John Ashcroft today environmental activists bear down on Norton I do not think it is reasonable

[00:44:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=2642s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=2642s)

Norton I do not think it is reasonable for the Senate to give its consent to a nominee who will take have to take an oath of office to uphold laws in which she does not believe amid concern among Democrats on Capitol Hill that a record has not been more thoroughly investigated the Sierra Club has launched a new TV ad questioning Norton's views on issues such as the protection of public lands to her support of oil drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge why has George Bush chosen Gale Norton and anti environmental extremists to be Secretary of Interior Bush has called a tax on Norton an effort to quote tear her down and a spokeswoman today insists only her hearing will clarify policy positions that have been taken out of context meanwhile Bush now has to contend with a new and local critic of his tax cut plan President Clinton who today despite numerous signs of a slowdown insists the economy has a bright future that could be undermined by Bush's 1.3 trillion dollar tax cut the combined impact of spending in tax cuts I would hope would not be such as to prevent us from continuing to play down this debt so we can keep interest rates low and the economy strong over the long run bullish in a Wall Street Journal interview today contradicts the president saying quote I've got a relatively pessimistic view about what the economy looks like the operative word is how soft will the landing be and the president-elect insists he will not compromise on the size of his tax cut in fact the senior advisors along with congressional allies are pursuing a way to immediately phase in the tax cut in order to stimulate the economy Tom thanks very much NBC's David Gregory tonight President Clinton has been talking about other things besides the economy this week in fact he spent much of the week on a victory lap around the country revisiting the scenes of some of his greatest political tests and triumphs here is some of what he's been saying this week in his own words I said

[00:46:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=2762s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=2762s)

saying this week in his own words I said yesterday in my church they may find out they may find somebody who can do this job better than me they will never find anybody had any more fun doing it tonight thank you very much thank you Al Gore and I got the precious chance to spend eight years in Washington putting people first getting the economy going again improving social and environmental conditions advancing peace freedom and prosperity around the world as I leave office I don't want America to let its concern for education reform and improvement obeyed I wanted to increase they thought the election was over the Republicans did the time it was over our candidate had won the popular vote and all the way they could win the election was to stop the voting in Florida he did a great job you wonder why anticipations are I anticipate my Christian spirit will be sorely tested by a return to commercial air travel [Music] I promised in that now-famous line that I would work my heart out for you every day till the last dog dies after eight years and with almost exactly nine days to go the last dog is still barking beaming on this Martin Luther King holiday a prelude to what begins tomorrow in Washington the confirmation hearings for John Ashcroft the former Missouri senator who

is george w bush's choice to be attorney general race will be a major issue in the contentious hearings especially since Ashcroft defended the Confederate agenda robert e lee in an interview with the southern partisan

[00:48:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=2880s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=2880s)

interview with the southern partisan magazine promoting the culture of the old south over the weekend in texas i met with president-elect Bush and asked about the Ashcroft interview and many other issues well I I don't think I don't think he was talking I haven't read the article so it's hard for me to respond to that I just know that's what he's does well I know but he doesn't if the inference is that somehow he thinks slavery is there's a noble institution I would I would strongly reject that assumption that that John Ashcroft is a open-minded inclusive person and I've read all kinds of comments that people making about him and he is going to end up being a very good Attorney General I believe he's gonna be confirmed Newt Gingrich says that there's a historic divide between the Republican Party and ethnic groups of color in this country that must be bridge or the Republicans won't be able to govern I am concerned about the fact that some people don't believe the American experience belongs to them and I am going to work as the best of my ability to convince those that want for me an African American or otherwise that I'll be their president some issues like the energy crisis will require immediate attention you've talked a lot about the energy crisis but you've talked about it almost exclusively as the need to produce more energy there's been very little talk about conservation we have been buying and consumption benjin in this country listen I I believe we need to conserve I mean I think we need to have incentives to encourage people to insulate their homes better I think we need to make sure industry does not you know is not wasteful no question about it but I'm realistic we can't conserve our way to independence and there is something else that will require the new president's immediate attention you get together with John McCain and campaign finance reform I think we can't yeah I do he's gonna go to the floor and make the fight you know good i I mean I I believe John and I we agree hug a lot more than we disagree on a campaign funding reform

[00:50:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=3000s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=3000s)

we disagree on a campaign funding reform I strongly believe there needs to be balance in any bill that includes paycheck protection but will be a first order of business for you to call John down to the White House or to call him up with others doesn't say how do we get together on this I well yes it will be I'm gonna talk to John John's a friend of mine and John I know John feels strongly about it and John is John's gonna get something done and I want to make sure I'm in the mix President Clinton is going out of office with an approval rate of 64 percent higher than Ronald Reagan or any other outgoing president modern memory that says the country likes what he's been doing well maybe so but he's not gonna be the president on January the 20th I am and I look forward to the opportunity to serve and you know the president the president's an interesting person I've learned some lessons from him and one of them is how to use the bully pulpit to define relations with Congress for example he played the endgame very well with the members of Congress and I think it's a good lesson for not only this incoming president but future presidents as well and he's certainly been an active president on the way out of town too and I can I can I can understand that and appreciate that not since John Kennedy was inaugurated have both parents been present to watch their sons worn in as president of the United States I'm going to stay focused yeah I think I will be able to i I'm you know I'm worried about mother and dad not worry about am I just they're emotional as well and I can't imagine what's gonna be going through their mind but I will uh I will be focused on the oath and I'll be focused on my speech and and I'm not gonna turn now to spend too much time looking at him because it'll be it will be an emotional moment for them and for me but um yes I can get through this I'll have more with

[00:52:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=3120s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=3120s)

through this I'll have more with president-elect Bush and his wife Laura later here on NBC Nightly News in the recent election Bush got only 9% of the black vote that's a historic low for Republican candidates in modern times so as NBC's Lisa Myers reports really is a lightning rod today with race looming large and his

confirmation fight john ashcroft uses a carefully staged photo op to speak out against racial profiling I think the racial profiling is unconstitutional for people to be singled out solely based on their race and for them to have in Houston the president-elect pays tribute to Martin Luther King Jr's fight for equal rights it inspired millions of Americans to face their own conscience and our nation is better for it but at King celebrations around the country black anger toward Bush and the election spills out Jesse Jackson calls for demonstrations across the country on inauguration day the biggest in Florida we are not want negotiate away our right to vote congressional black leaders are so angry about the black boats they say we're not counted in Florida but they took the unprecedented step of challenging the official certification of Bush's election mr. vice president I rise to object to the fraudulent twenty five Florida electoral votes others are trying to mobilize the grassroots against bush the majority of the African American community has declared war whether it will be a cold war a hot war it would definitely be war political scientists say the level of outrage is higher than it's been in years there is a very deep feeling that his administration right now is not legitimate what will it take to heal the wounds black leaders say naming three prominent blacks Colin Powell at State Condoleezza Rice's national security

[00:54:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=3241s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=3241s)

Condoleezza Rice's national security adviser and rod pages Education Secretary is not enough they say what's needed are policies that help all black families support for affirmative action and money for federal programs such as head start until then black leaders demand no appeasement Jesse Jackson says Democrats must put the interests of minority voters who sent them here their first litmus test he says a vote against John Ashcroft Lisa Myers NBC News this Ashcroft nomination really is a lightning rod today with race looming large and his confirmation fight john ashcroft uses a carefully staged photo op to speak out against racial profiling I think the racial profiling is unconstitutional for people to be singled out solely based on their race and for them to have in Houston the president-elect pays tribute to Martin Luther King Jr's fight for equal rights it inspired millions of Americans to face their own conscience and our nation is better for him but at King celebrations around the country black anger toward bush and the election spills out Jesse Jackson calls for demonstrations across the country on inauguration day the biggest in Florida we are not want negotiate away our right to vote congressional black leaders are so angry about the black boats they say we're not counted in Florida but they took the unprecedented step of challenging the official certification of Bush's election mr. vice president I rise to object to the fraudulent 25 Florida electoral votes others are trying to mobilize the grassroots against bush the majority of the African American community has declared war whether it will be a cold war a hot war it would definitely be war political scientists say the level of outrage is higher than it's been in years there is

[00:56:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=3360s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=3360s)

higher than it's been in years there is a very deep feeling that his administration right now is not legitimate what will it take to heal the wounds black leaders say naming three prominent blacks Colin Powell at State Condoleezza Rice's national security advisor and rod pages Education Secretary is not enough they say what's needed are policies that help all black families support for affirmative action and money for federal programs such as head start until then black leaders demand no appeasement Jesse Jackson says Democrats must quote the interests of minority voters who sent them here their first litmus test he says a vote against John Ashcroft Lisa Myers NBC News the capital and on Capitol Hill today the two sides have advise and consent the Senate confirmation hearing for Secretary of State and Attorney General Colin Powell and John Ashcroft NBC's Andrea Mitchell tonight on the howl lovin and some of what we can expect in foreign policy Andrea Tommy is the most popular political figure in America according to that new NBC news/wall Street Journal poll viewed positively by three-quarters of all Americans and known by almost everyone a fact not lost on the Senate even seven years after retiring as chairman of the Joint Chiefs : Powell takes the hill today with the confidence of a four-star general I'm proud to be the first African American to be Secretary of Defense or Secretary of State rather of the United States Senate well habits die hard old habits die hard this was more coronation than confirmation this is one of those easy days where an imagined I'm no better qualified person for a wise wise choice extraordinarily proud to vote for you as we will

on specific policies power than the new president are talking change for the Middle East hands off for a while you can't successfully pursue peace in the midst of such violence as George W. Bush told Tom Brokaw over the weekend

00:58:02 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=3482s>)

Bush told Tom Brokaw over the weekend sometimes our country just can't impose our timetable on the parties no more presidential all-nighters and cliffhanger summits says Richard Armitage the man likely to be Powell's number two at the State Department a little critical of both the hands-on a two hands-on approach of the administration we are committed to missile defense on Russia and what it needs to do as president-elect Bush has said is to get on with reform Plague of AIDS across Africa and it will continue to receive our attention when the Bush administration comes in house most fundamental difference with Clinton the so-called Powell doctrine not using force unless it is overwhelming force if you go to war you should go to war with all the assets is your disposal but a key former Clinton official says power was wrong to oppose the use of force in Bosnia we shouldn't rush to use force we should use it as a last resort but we have to have a broad vision of America's role in the world and not a narrow one and this parting advice for power from Madeline Albright with Oprah airing tomorrow what have you told him about the position well I've told him it's the best job in the world but it's more difficult than it looks but for power today a tour de force answering questions for more than six hours without a single note the likely outcome unanimous consent Tom thanks very much NBC's Andrea Mitchell tonight it was a much tougher second day in the crossfire for the attorney general nominee former Missouri Senator John Ashcroft put to the test on hot-button issues like abortion guns and race NBC's Lisa Myers is on Capitol Hill tonight with more on that Lisa well Tom you said it a very different mood here on day two John Ashcroft comes face-to-face with his own past as Democrats accuse him of reinventing himself to try to gain confirmation all day Democrats pepper him with questions about which John

01:00:00 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=3600s>)

him with questions about which John Ashcroft will serve as Attorney General it's very hard to change your stripes or change your spots and I see a kind of metamorphosis going on a mutation if you will case in point abortion for 27 years Ashcroft it's fought to outlaw abortion even in cases of rape and incest now he says he won't ask the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade which legalized abortion I don't think it is the agenda of the president-elect of the United States to seek an opportunity to overturn Roe on protecting abortion clinics from violence if the conduct of anyone violates the law regarding the access of women to reproductive health services I will enforce the law vigorously senator I sit here and listen to the hearing in my jaw almost drops if you think I have changed to believe that that aborting unborn children is a good thing I don't but I know what it means to enforce the law on guns Ashcroft to oppose the ban on assault weapons now promises to maintain the Justice Department support for the ban yet Ashcroft seems most uncomfortable when challenged on his statements and actions on racial issues that lend the perception at least that you are not particularly sympathetic to African Americans concerns and needs I believe that racism is wrong now tonight Democrats privately admit that they have not yet landed enough blows to defeat Ashcroft now Senator Ted Kennedy is threatening to filibuster to try to talk the nomination to death but it's not clear that he has even enough votes for that Tom thanks very much NBC's Lisa Myers not on Capitol Hill three other Bush nominees had a much easier time of it and their confirmation hearings today Paul O'Neill who is the Treasury secretary designate Mel Martinez the nominee for Housing and Urban Development and Christy Whitman

01:02:01 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=3721s>)

Urban Development and Christy Whitman Bush is picked for the Environmental Protection Agency EPA O'Neal said the Bush tax cut package will be on Capitol Hill within six weeks claiming it will help pump up a weakening economy Martinez who was born in Cuba promised to work on promoting homeownership for low and moderate income Americans and governor Whitman said she'll maintain a strong federal role in environmental protection Bush said the agency would be taking a close look at some of the new

regulations the Clinton administration has put in place in the past several weeks all three of these nominees are administrative course George Bush has to be sworn in and as NBC's David Gregory reports from here in the Capitol tonight he is very eager to get going David Tom on the brink of his swearing-in which of course will take place here at the Capitol the president elect who has been rehearsing his inaugural address with the use of teleprompters and all is according to aides also focus tonight on setting the right tone a call for unity during his 10 to 12 minutes speech to the nation his first full day in Washington the bushes and the Cheney's treated to a huge celebration on the mall hours earlier the president-elect tells Republican leaders the party must act quickly to attract more so or from minorities I want everybody to hear loud and clear that I'm going to be the president of everybody whether they voted for me or not under president tonight the bushes attend several candlelight dinners with top Republican donors and in advance of all the weekend festivities his parents the former president and Barbara Bush will join the family at Blair House Tom thanks very much NBC's David Gregory tonight seljuq time for Bill Clinton after eight years in the Oval Office he's now packing up and moving out NBC's Claire Shipman has been trailing the president during his final hours as the most powerful man in the world Claire well Tom like every other speech he's made in the last eight

[01:04:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=3841s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=3841s)

other speech he's made in the last eight years the president is acting as chief speechwriter on this one in fact he's still making the final touches but we're told he's going to reminisce tonight about his arrival in Washington briefly we're told gloss over what he believes are his accomplishments give his recipe for success for the US economy talk about the importance of a US leadership role in the world no surprise were told he's not going to mention any scandals but he will thank the u.s. citizens for sticking with him we're told through thick and thin we've also been led to believe this would be a short speech for the president seven minutes we'll see if he can keep it that short in the meantime the White House is gearing up for its final move boxes everywhere paintings are coming off the walls it's quite a messed effect inside the White House and the president is also involved in all of that he's actually sorting out the things he wants to take the Chappaqua what he wants to leave at the White House and he also told a group of us who traveled with him yesterday to Arkansas Tom that he hasn't been sleeping much at all for the last 40 days because he wants to save her every last minute of his presidency Tom thanks very much NBC's Claire Shipman tonight law enforcement officials are preparing for everything in terms of security more on that story tonight from NBC's Justice Department correspondent Pete Williams 20 miles from the US Capitol at a secluded training facility the US Secret Service rehearses for a roll agents hope they won't have at this weekend's inauguration a mock attack a rocket fired at a presidential motorcade and even though officials tell NBC News there's no credible evidence of a terrorist threat they want to be ready for the worst the world has changed that it's it's become a more threatening environment for world leaders and we just want to be prepared to deal with it near the Capitol NBC News has learned thousands of doses of antidotes for a possible chemical or biological attack now in place and ready today as a precaution police even x-ray flowerpots for the White House reviewing stand rest assured that when the president comes by

[01:06:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=3961s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=3961s)

assured that when the president comes by on the parade route that we will have the safest environment possible for him worried that anti World Trade protestors might turn violent as they did a year ago in Seattle Washington DC will have its entire 3,600 member Police Force on duty people who come here to Pennsylvania Avenue to watch the parade will see three times the usual number of police on the streets and this year everything spectators carry will be subject to search the city's police chief says he won't allow demonstrators to block traffic as they did here last April at the World Bank country but he says protesters can still make their points as long as you're peaceful we don't have a problem whether this one they cross that line and jeopardize the safety of others that it could be a problem organizers expect anywhere from 10 to 15 thousand demonstrators who will add the election itself to their list of causes this is gonna be a protest that is inclusive for a lot of different groups because we have a similar anger and then is that Bush is in the white house he's not the president-elect he's the president's elect and when they get to town they'll find the largest law enforcement presence ever for an inauguration officers who insist they'll be ready for anything Pete

Williams NBC News Washington President Clinton who became a one-man legal moral and ethical melodrama during his final term will not be indicted once he leaves office but he will pay a price in an agreement worked out by his lawyer with a special prosecutor the president will lose his law license for five years pay a fine and he had to issue a statement acknowledging that he knowingly gave false answers all of us on the eve of the inauguration of George W Bush who was eager to have this matter finished before he took office will begin tonight with NBC's Claire Shipman who's at the White House Claire Tom sources say that Clinton is not happy about the timing of this deal effectively clouding his last day in office but he is very happy about the substance putting it all in one final package that he can leave behind

[01:08:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=4081s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=4081s)

package that he can leave behind tomorrow even as the moving vans are taking away their final loads a startling development with a familiar feel at the White House a lawyer for the president's speaking on the driveway the president has accepted a suspension of his license and the Independent Counsel has declined to pursue as an investigation any further this is an appropriate closure for the country and the president and across town the Independent Counsel President Clinton has acknowledged responsibility for his actions in a statement with hard-fought negotiations over almost every word the president says he tried to walk a line between acting lawfully and testifying falsely and that certain of my responses to questions about Miss Lewinsky were false David Kendall the president's lawyer an Independent Counsel Robert Rea have been working on the deal behind the scenes for weeks here are the main points ray ends the investigation and the threat of indictment at the same time the Arkansas Supreme Court agrees not to disbar Clinton in exchange Clinton admits he gave false and misleading testimony about his affair with Monica Lewinsky accepts a five-year suspension of his license to practice law in Arkansas pays a \$25,000 fine to the state and agrees not to seek government reimbursement of his legal fees his spokesman says Clinton is ready to move on the president is upbeat about his future looking forward to putting this behind him now sources say that the most important point for the president in this deal avoid the humiliation of disbarment his team didn't really think that Ray would move to indict the president they would have been happy to put this off until next week but Ray according to sources wanted to get this wrapped up now so that George W Bush can avoid the same situation in his first few weeks in office that Gerald Ford faced more than 25 years ago answering questions about

[01:10:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=4202s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=4202s)

25 years ago answering questions about presidential pardons Tom thank you very much in DC's Claire Shipman at the White House tonight as Claire reported this deal has been in the work in progress since December and there's never been anything quite like it involving as it does a sitting president who was impeached but not convicted they were still trying to put all the pieces to play in place early this morning we have more on the deal tonight from NBC's Pete Williams it all comes down to this an Arkansas judge today signs the order accepting the deal and lawyers formally file the admission of wrongdoing ending the seven year investigation of President Clinton from whitewater to Lewinsky cost 52 million in rising Arkansas legal experts say the hold on Clinton's license is a harsh penalty for any lawyer the suspension of five years is as long as you can get without being disbarred and so clearly it's up at the very top of the suspension thing and after impeachment another parallel legal experts say to Richard Nixon disbarred in New York after leaving office lawyers on both sides declared today's agreements sound for Clinton no more trials or legal bills and for the Independent Counsel a certain outcome many legal scholars say ray would have faced very long odds getting a guilty verdict against such a popular figure it's certainly not clear that he could win a conviction if he brought an indictment that would be several years and tens of millions of dollars with a very uncertain outcome this way he makes a clean break especially with Ray's future boss George W Bush recently sending strong signals that ray should drop the case I think we've had enough focus on on on the past it's time to move forward even those who called for ray to indict praise the Independent Counsel forgetting the deal with Clinton still in the White House I think it was a substantial achievement on Robert Ray's part to get a sitting president make these admissions as part of a plea bargain and by getting Clinton to agree not to seek reimbursement of his legal

[01:12:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=4320s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq5TMeizZCw&t=4320s)

not to seek reimbursement of his legal fees ray saves the government hundreds of thousands of dollars all that's left now is for ray to write his final report required by law bringing to an end the longest presidential investigation in history Pete Williams NBC News Washington it's been a big day for Texas George W Bush who went from the Texas governor's mansion to the White House had his first full day on the job as president and back home good news four of the notorious 7 Texas prison escapees were captured in Colorado another has committed suicide two still are at large we'll be covering all of this tonight we'll begin with the new president's very active day which started on a controversial note NBC's David Gregory is at the White House tonight at Lisa Myers on Capitol Hill David you begin please well Tom tonight even as the president vows to move quickly on his agenda including education reform and tax cuts on his first day of official business Bush decides to send his strongest message on the issue of abortion 28 years to the day is the row v Wade decision legalized abortion Bush today issues an executive order banning federal funding for international groups that offer abortions or abortion counseling abroad a ban President Clinton had lifted he thinks that this will help make abortion more rare anything said is not the wisest use of taxpayer money in any case to be used for abortion to promote abortion the decision which aides say is simply the fulfillment of a campaign pledge came as thousands of abortion foes marched in Washington and a statement read to the demonstrators Bush says quote we share a great goal to work toward a day when every child is welcomed in life and protected and long bushes abortion decision just one move on an active first official day at the White House this morning Bush looks on as vice president Cheney's wears in members of the new White House staff an emotional moment for some who have worked with Bush for years and in trying to draw a sharp distinction between his administration and President Clinton's

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administration and President Clinton's Bush demands of his team quote remember the high standards that come with high office I expect every member of this administration to stay well within the boundaries that define legal and ethical conduct let us begin the work we were hired to do and leave this a better place than we found it for Bush the work begins quickly aides announcing the president's first foreign trip a meeting in Mexico next month with President and sent a fox moosh meets with literacy experts one day before he'll send his education reform package to Congress and holds separate sessions with Republican leaders and democratic party elders to discuss not just education but Bush's massive tax cut proposal this administration is going to seek the good in everybody and find that ability to come together for the good of the country as well despite such calls for bipartisanship sources say Bush assured Republican leaders that he won't back down from a fight with Democrats over his agenda and he'll focus on immediate results according to someone in the room Bush told them quote I'm not gonna worry about my legacy Tom thanks very much NBC's David Gregory tonight President Bush has been promising everyone that the country will be surprised by how much his administration accomplishes in the first hundred days or so and as NBC's Lisa Myers report from Capitol Hill tonight the mood in Congress is getting slightly better for him Lisa Tom the president does face some tough terrain up here the most deeply divided Congress in history lingering bitterness over the election but there are signs tonight that he just might be able to get a big chunk of his agenda one good sign for the new president today the first Democrat senator Zell Miller of Georgia agrees to help push Bush's 1.3 trillion dollar tax cut remember that oh well this press lists long return to sender that's what we're wanting to do right here that's what we want to do with this overpayment of

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want to do with this overpayment of taxes the politics of tax cuts are changing as more Democrats worry about the slowing economy the drag of spiraling energy costs and the changing polls a recent NBC News poll finds 55% of Americans now favor the Bush tax cut and 31% oppose it politics have changed dramatically because the economy has changed I think you'll see Democrats prepared to support a fairly substantial tax cut but key players say the eventual compromise will look different than the bush plan more modest across-the-board cuts and tax rates heavily tilted to get immediate help to middle-class families also

virtually certain elimination of the marriage penalty and an estate tax reduction as for other Bush priorities on education reform key players predict a quick compromise on annual testing and holding schools accountable on prescription drugs for the elderly a tougher fight but a deal likely late-summer to provide benefits for all seniors on an HMO patients Bill of Rights though not a top Bush's agenda likely to get done by summer he's not gonna get a hundred percent of what he wants but he'll get 70 or 80 percent and then come back for the additional 20 or 30% that's how Washington works one big challenge for Bush Republican Senator John McCain who championed campaign reform across the country he's now demanding action and hopes for Bush's eventual support of the American people have chosen the President on States but I also have a mandate veterans of the Reagan years see similarities between the early days of that President and this one neither were expected to accomplish much in so many ways george w bush is also underestimated and i'll bet you that he broadly exceeds expectations that will be easy to do since polls show most americans expect still more gridlock for their part the bush team hopes that a couple of early successes will build the momentum and force democrats to

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momentum and force democrats to cooperate Tom thanks very much NBC's Lisa Myers tonight

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